

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16. Cancelled.

17. (Currently amended) A system for providing pickup and delivery of luggage over a distributed network, the system comprising:

- a. at least one computer server connected to the distributed network, the server running a luggage transport server application;
- b. a plurality of service partners luggage carriers each having sites, each site operatively associated with a computer connected to the distributed network, each service partners luggage carrier's associated computer running at least one server application to provide online service to users over the distributed network, each partner luggage carrier's associated computer also running at least one luggage transport client application for interaction with the luggage transport server application;
- c. a plurality of user input/output devices operatively configured to access an online service ~~at a service partners site over the distributed network~~;
- d. the luggage transport server application operatively connected to data storage residing on computer readable media, and the luggage transport server application configured to:
  - i. receive and store luggage travel segment data from a user;
  - ii. programmatically match a luggage travel segment to a selected service partners luggage carrier;
  - iii. output selected luggage travel segment data to the selected service partners luggage carrier.

18. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

iv. receive and store luggage travel segment data from the selected service partners luggage carrier;

v. output luggage travel segment data to the user.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

iv. receive and store luggage travel segment bid data from the selected service partners luggage carriers;

v. output luggage travel segment bid data to the user;

vi. receive and store luggage travel segment bid acceptance data from the user;

vii. output luggage travel segment bid acceptance data to the selected service partners luggage carriers.

20. (Currently amended) A system for providing pickup and delivery of luggage across multiple service providers over a distributed network, the system comprising:

a. at least one computer server connected to the distributed network, the server running a luggage transport server application;

b. a plurality of service partners luggage carriers each having sites, each site operatively associated with a computer connected to the distributed network, each service partners luggage carrier's associated computer running at least one server application to provide online service to users over the distributed network, each partner luggage carrier's associated computer also running at least one luggage transport client application for interaction with the luggage transport server application;

c. a plurality of user input/output devices operatively configured to access an online service at a service partners site over the distributed network;

d. the luggage transport server application operatively connected to data storage residing on computer readable media, and the luggage transport server application configured to:

- i. receive and store luggage travel segment data from a user;
- ii. programmatically match a luggage travel segment to a selected service partners luggage carrier;
- iii. output selected luggage travel segment data to the selected service partners luggage carrier;
- iv. receive and store luggage travel segment data from the selected service partners luggage carrier;
- v. output luggage travel segment data to the user.

21. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

- i. programmatically match a luggage travel segment to a plurality of selected service partners luggage carriers;
- ii. output selected luggage travel segment data to the plurality of selected service partners luggage carriers;
- iii. receive and store luggage travel segment bid data from each service partners luggage carrier;
- iv. output luggage travel segment bid data to the user;
- vi. receive and store luggage travel segment's bid acceptance data from the user;
- vii. output luggage travel segment's bid acceptance data to the plurality of service partners luggage carriers.

22. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

- i. receive and store a plurality of luggage travel segments' data from a user;
- ii. programmatically match each luggage travel segment to at least one selected service partners luggage carrier;

iii. output selected luggage travel segment data to each selected service partners luggage carrier;

iv. receive and store luggage travel segment data for each segment from the matched service partners luggage carriers;

v. output selected luggage travel data for each segment to the user.

23. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

i. receive and store a plurality of luggage travel segments' data from a user;

ii. programmatically match each luggage travel segment to a plurality of selected service partners luggage carriers;

iii. output selected luggage travel segment data from each segment to each selected service partners luggage carrier;

iv. receive and store each luggage travel segments' bid data from a plurality of service partners luggage carriers;

v. output luggage travel segments' bid data to the user;

vi. receive and store luggage travel segments' bid acceptance data from the user;

vii. output luggage travel segments' bid acceptance data to the plurality of service partners luggage carriers.